

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A graft retaining system for retaining a graft in a bone tunnel in a bone, the system comprising:

encircling means for at least partially encircling a portion of the graft, the encircling means being positionable adjacent the bone tunnel, the encircling means being movable from a first position in which the graft passes generally straight through the encircling means to a second position within the bone tunnel in which the graft is forced into a tortuous path through the encircling means such that the graft is gripped by the encircling means; and

securing means for securing the graft and encircling means relative to the bone tunnel with the encircling means in the second position, the securing means being releasably engageable with the encircling means, the encircling means being responsive to insertion of the securing means into the bone tunnel to move from the first position to the second position.

2. (cancelled)
3. (original) The graft retaining system of claim 1 wherein the securing means directly engages the graft, the encircling means, and the bone tunnel to secure the graft and the encircling means.
4. (original) The graft retaining system of claim 1 wherein the encircling means comprises a ring having an axis, the ring encircling the graft to grip the graft in belt buckle fashion when the ring is placed in the second position.

5. (original) The graft retaining system of claim 4 wherein the ring comprises a bone engaging portion extending from one side of the ring, the bone engaging portion being engageable with the bone outside of the bone tunnel to form a center of rotation about which the ring can rotate, the ring being rotatable about the bone engaging portion from the first position in which the ring axis is generally aligned with the tunnel to the second position in which it is generally transverse to the bone tunnel.
6. (cancelled)
7. (original) The graft retaining system of claim 1 wherein the encircling means directly engages the graft and the bone outside of the tunnel and the securing means directly engages the graft and the bone tunnel.
8. (original) The graft retaining system of claim 1 wherein the securing means comprises an interference screw.
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (cancelled)
14. (cancelled)
15. (cancelled)
16. (cancelled)
17. (cancelled)
18. (cancelled)
19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 27 wherein~~ A method for retaining a graft in a bone tunnel formed in a bone, the method comprising:

positioning an encircling means adjacent the bone tunnel in a first position such that it at least partially encircles a portion of the graft with the graft passing generally straight through the encircling means, the encircling means comprises comprising a lumen for receiving the graft, a prong for gripping the bone outside of the tunnel to create a center of rotation, and a fixation tab for engaging an interference screw, the step of positioning the encircling means adjacent the bone tunnel comprising placing the prong into engagement with the bone outside of the bone tunnel and placing the graft through the lumen, ~~the method further comprising:~~

positioning an interference screw adjacent the fixation tab; and

driving the interference screw into the bone tunnel to rotate the encircling means about the center of rotation created by the prong from the first position to a second

position, within the bone tunnel, in which the graft is forced into a tortuous path through the encircling means such that the encircling means grips the graft and the interference screw grips the encircling means to secure the graft and encircling means relative to the bone tunnel with the encircling means in the second position.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 29 further comprising:
 forming a notch in a portion of the bone tunnel to receive the fixation tab.
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising:
 inserting a guidewire into the tunnel adjacent the notch; and
 inserting the interference screw over the guide wire to guide the interference screw.